

FLORIDA



SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

DO NOT WRITE ON ORIGINAL

Post Office Box 12519 • Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519
Telephone (904) 877-2165 • FAX (904) 878-8665

July 28, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Billed Party Preference, CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter represents the Florida Sheriffs Association's opposition to Billed Party Preference (BPP) as it applies to detention facilities. As the representative of the sixty-seven (67) Sheriffs of the state of Florida, we strongly urge you to exempt detention facilities from any implementation of BPP. We believe that inmates and detention facilities create a unique situation and BPP would severely have a negative impact on all detention facilities in Florida.

Our first concern is the safety and welfare of the citizens of Florida and security of the detention facilities. BPP would take away each jail's ability to control inmate calling. As a result, creating greater opportunity for inmates to commit abuses including telephone fraud, planning escapes, and carrying on gang activity from within the jail. Even more importantly, BPP would conceivably allow inmates to harass victims, judges and witnesses because the facility would no longer be able to block numbers or have direct control over the telephone system. This clearly creates a security problem and undermines our main duty as law enforcement officers, which is to protect our citizens.

Currently, we have contractual agreements chosen by competitive bid by each facility and developed for the specific needs of each facility. These service providers install number blocking, PINS and allow for screening out numbers. These controls are necessary for the security of the facility as well as the people of Florida. It is imperative that jail administrators are in control of how inmate calls are routed.

We are also determined to make sure these service providers adhere to their contractual obligations and diminish any chance for overcharging.

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Boys Ranch, Youth Villa, Youth Ranch, Youth Camp, Caruth Camp

Honorable Reed E. Hundt
July 28, 1994
Page Two

Our second concern is the huge loss of revenue BPP would cause for inmate welfare programs. Monies received from commissions on inmate calls must be used to fund programs that benefit the overall welfare of inmates. Many drug rehabilitation programs, physical and mental fitness programs and other amenities are purchased from these commissions. To include detention facilities within BPP would effectively eliminate hundreds of thousands of dollars in commissions being used to benefit inmates. I predict that this will effectively end these important programs, or force local taxpayers to shoulder the burden when, under the current arrangement, inmates pay for such programs themselves.

The Florida Sheriffs Association and the Sheriffs of Florida strongly urge you to exempt detention facilities from BPP and allow individual detention facilities to maintain control over inmate calling, thus ensuring security and future revenues benefiting all inmates.

Sincerely,



J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

JMP/Tcb

cc: Honorable James H. Quello
Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Honorable Susan Ness



DIRECTOR COPY ORIGINAL

Richland County Detention Center

1400 Huger Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Telephone 748-4936

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

James A. McCaulley
Director

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: BPP (Billed Party Preference)

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am a Detention Center Director who has survived under the "old system" and who enjoys our current contract phone system, provided by our inmate phone service provider.

Inmate abuse of any system outside of the control of the institution is horrendous. When this abuse occurs, correctional staff time is wasted handling complaints from citizens, witnesses, prosecutors, law enforcement pertaining to abuse and threats by inmates.

Approval of the BPP for inmate telecommunications would be a **giant step backwards** in the area of inmate telecommunications.

We have built up trust and confidence with our inmate phone service providers over the years, and for all practical purposes eliminate fraud. Of greater impact, has been the elimination of harassment of victim/witness by inmates under our control. Additionally, there would be a great loss of revenue to local government's ever increasing cost. Should the phones be removed from our facility, and surely they would be, we would be set back at least a decade! Who would replace the phones, surely not the government entity.

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Page Two
July 28, 1994

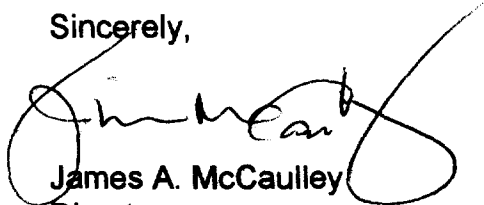
The greatest single improvement to the correctional field over the past eight years has been the phone system provided by an inmate phone service provider.

I have reviewed comments made on this issue from professional correctional practitioners from around the country. I echo all their concerns on the negative impact of BPP, should it apply to correctional facilities.

Your assistance is appreciated in "exempting correctional facilities from BPP".

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



James A. McCaulley
Director

JAM/rjw (0726hund)

August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration need at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions, decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Carter

Cynthia A. Carter,
Jail Administrator

Hays County Law Enforcement Center
1307 Uhland Road
San Marcos, Texas 78666

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July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: Billed Party Preference

Sir:

If Billed Party Preference (BPP) is to be instituted in order to benefit the public, then please act in the best interest of the vast majority of the American public. Protect the 255+ million free citizens and millions of businesses from the 1.4 million prisoners who have seriously broken the law, are in jail and are due punishment. Even if we consider the families and friends of the prisoners, we can barely justify 20 million people potentially being affected regardless of the structure of BPP.

But, every resident and business with a phone can be victimized over and over again by a prisoner wanting to vent frustration or continue criminal behavior even while in jail.

BY NOT APPLYING BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE TO INMATE PHONE SERVICES, THE FCC WILL HAVE ACTED TO PROTECT OVER 90% OF THE GOOD AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ALLOWED THE STRICT CONTROL OF INMATE CALLING TO REMAIN IN PLACE AS IT IS TODAY.

If the cost of the call to the called party is a concern, then addressing a tariff or other guidelines for ISP's (Inmate Service Providers) is a viable approach that allows today's inmate call controls to remain effective.

To protect the vast majority of the law abiding public, I ask that you vote against Billed Party Preference as it would apply to inmate phone services.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Wayne Donaldson
859 Westbriar Court
Mobile, Alabama 36609

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DUPLICATE / ORIGINAL

ALVIN SHAW
Chief Deputy

TERRY KEEL
TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

APRIL BACON
Asst Chief - Law Enforcement
DAN RICHARDS
Asst Chief - Corrections
ANDY SAENZ
Chief of Staff

July 25, 1994

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FCC MAIL ROOM

1010 Lavaca St
Austin, TX 78701:

Administration
(512) 473-9770
(fax 473-9722)

Central Records
(512) 473-9749

Central Warrants
(512) 473-9751
(fax 473-9752)

Civil Process Div
(512) 473-9771

Crime Investigations
(512) 473-9728
(fax 473-9774)

Crime Prevention
(512) 473-9721

Fugitive Unit
(512) 473-9769

Internal Affairs
(512) 473-9718

Mental Health Unit
(512) 473-9734

Personnel
(512) 473-9772

Traffic Enforcement
(512) 473-9721

Victim's Assistance
(512) 473-9709

Patrol Services
9301 Johnny Morris
Austin, TX 78724
(512) 473-9285

Central Booking
715 E 8th St
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 480-5013
(fax 480-5270)

Travis County Jail
1000 San Antonio St
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 473-9021
(fax 473-9237)

3614 Bill Price Rd
Del Valle, TX 78617:

Correctional Complex
(512) 473-4180
(fax 473-4191)

Intermediate Sanctions
(512) 473-4186
(fax 247-2200)

Training Academy
(512) 473-4194

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Please accept this communique as our indication of opposition to the Billed Party Preference proposal for inmate facilities.

Client population at our facility vacillates between 2,300 and 2,600 clients. Security and Administration needs at our facility dictate the necessity of routing inmate calls from our operation to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls. We currently have a contractual relationship with such a carrier. We find it incompatible with our operation to allow inmates open access with telecommunications networks and the freedom to use any carrier they please. Billed Party Preference will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we have known and with whom we have entered into a contractual relationship. Billed Party Preference will allow calls to be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us and few that will be trained to handle such inmate calls.

Under contractual relationships with a telephone provider, we have installed phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. Fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity are controlled through the use of this special equipment. Costs of local incarceration continue to climb alarmingly. With these costs in mind, we cannot afford to provide the special equipment for inmate telephone service without the help of inmate phone service providers. Billed Party Preference would also detrimentally affect the revenues generated for our County through the inmate phone service. With Billed Party Preference there will be no way for us to finance inmate phone services, and there will be no inmate phone service providers to assist us in this endeavor. Inmate phones assist in maintaining the good morale of an inmate population. Without a well maintained and monitored inmate phone system, tensions within the facility will rise and make it more difficult for our staff to manage the clients.

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Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

July 25, 1994

Page 2

We are sensitive to the rates families pay for inmate calls. We do appreciate the FCC's concern for any Office which does not responsibly protect inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree, however, with the FCC's proposed solution for the lack of responsibility perpetrated by a few. The proper and more effective action for correcting limited infractions, would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriff's enforce these rate ceilings through contracts. Indeed the contract we currently maintain provides for such rate ceilings. I believe that most Sheriff's are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

I reiterate, Billed Party Preference would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility. The ultimate result of Billed Party Preference would be the reduction in inmate phone availability and in turn the decreased efficiency of our staff. I urge you not to adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions. Such decisions are clearly within our discretion and we have a public responsibility to make those decisions.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Keel, Travis County Sheriff

1010 Lavaca Street

Austin, Texas 78767

TK:le

xc: Albert Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States
James H. Quello, Commissioner
Andrew C. Barrett, Commissioner
Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Susan Ness, Commissioner
Alvin Shaw, Chief Deputy
Dan T. Richards, Assistant Chief Deputy
April Bacon, Assistant Chief Deputy
Andy Saenz, Chief of Staff
David Balagia, Captain
James Harrell, Captain
Greg Martinez, Captain
Woody Simmons, Director
File

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Vice-Chairman
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Moss Perrow, Jr.
Andrea Bowers
Danny Covington
Thomas S. Harrison, Jr.

**ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN REGIONAL
DETENTION CENTER**
Post Office Box 9000
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29116-9000

DIRECTOR
James Gordon, Jr.
(803) 531-4139
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Joshua Davis
(803) 531-4658

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AUG 1 1994

July 26, 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

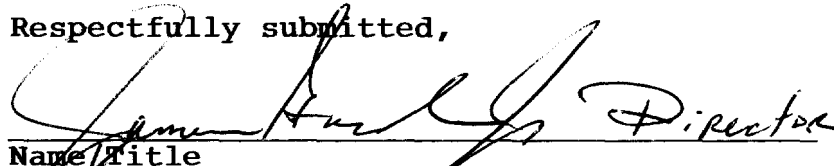
Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

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In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,


Name/Title

ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN REGIONAL DETENTION CENTER
Name of Correctional Facility

POST OFFICE BOX 9000/ORANGEBURG, SC 29116-9000
Address

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

07/20/94 10:41

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

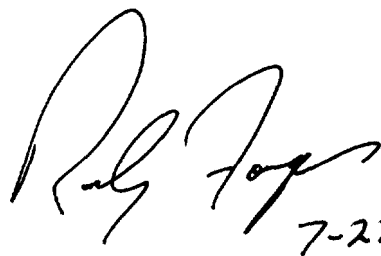
Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

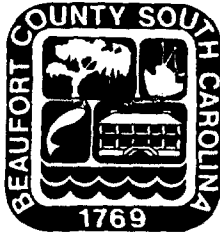
For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,


7-27-94

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
DETENTION CENTER

Multi Government Center • P. O. Drawer 1228
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-1228
Phone: (803) 525-7247 Fax: (803) 525-7181

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 15, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Please accept this letter as a comment regarding Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77. As a detention administrator, I have received a great amount of information from various sources on the above captioned matter. I cannot speak for all administrators--merely myself; however, I would like to bring some items to your attention.

In South Carolina, the requirement for phone calls is that we must give an inmate one five minute phone call per week. In our old facility, where we did not have telephones in the cell block, this meant that my officers had to take each inmate out of his or her cell, down to the booking area, log in the call to verify it was offered, standby while the call was made, and then put the inmate back in the cell. This was extremely labor intensive, unsatisfactory to both inmates and staff. In 1989, knowing that many telephone providers were installing units into jail facilities, I contacted our local company, trying to have phones put in the housing units.

For over a year, I attempted to work with this company, with dismal results. What we needed were collect-only instruments incapable of making third party or credit card calls. At the time, "commissions" were not even a consideration. Some efforts were attempted to provide a service, but it was ineffective. We never could get a collect-only system. Finally, in desperation, I contacted an inmate phone provider, and had equipment provided which would allow me to:

- a. Turn phones on and off from a central control point (for security reasons).
- b. Promptly block numbers of staff and other officials who requested not to get calls from inmates.
- c. Block numbers of citizens who complained of harassing/threatening phone calls from inmates.
- d. Research calls placed from the facility to investigate complaints of inmate abuse.
- e. Confirm or deny allegations of threatening phone calls by inmates.

This company even fabricated a portable phone unit that could be easily moved from one secured cell to another. Perhaps our local company could have provided these services, but it certainly was not interested then. (Note: since 1989, I have never been contacted by our local public telephone company expressing a desire to work with us on this matter.)

In the four years that we have had an Inmate phone provider, the number of complaints I have

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'Professionally we serve; Personally we care!'

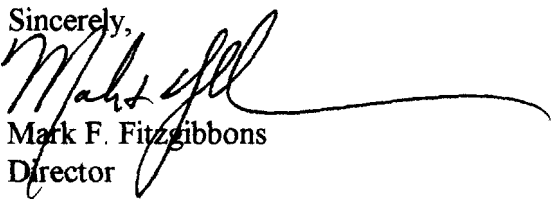
received from citizens about abusive inmate phone calls has decreased dramatically. I have received no complaints from inmates or family members over the costs of calls. Our provider has installed on their system a mechanism that blocks a telephone number when the costs reach a certain level, so that neither the vendor nor the accepting party has a bill that will cause a financial hardship.

There seems to be controversy concerning "commissions" received by correctional facilities by inmate phone providers. I am quite sure there is at least one provider in the market "gouging" the inmates' families by setting extremely high rates--rates that I would personally consider unethical. To do away with all inmate phone providers, because of one reprehensible company, however, is "overkill." Almost all correctional facilities that have these commissions put the monies into an inmate welfare fund, to provide materials for inmates perceived by the community as "nice to have"; but which in reality are important parts in rehabilitation programs and positive discipline for the inmate populations. If there are individual phone companies that are "ripping off" the consumer--then prosecute those specific offenders. Frankly, what I, as a novice perceives is that the inmate phone vendors have spent significant money and time in developing a system that is effective and a help to both the correctional administration and the inmate. Now that all the problems have been handled, the public phone sector wants to reap the benefits of all that work, using the FCC to push out the small vendor.

Please do not allow that to happen. I can assure you that if we lose the "friendly" phone system that we have, and have to go back to something which is more labor intensive, both staff and inmates will suffer. Billed party preference is not appropriate for a correctional facility.

I appreciate your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,



Mark F. Fitzgibbons
Director

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

July 20, 1994

AUG 1 1994

The Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum
United States Senate
Russell Bldg., Room 302
Washington, D. C. 20510

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Senator:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

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For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Cox
Meade Co. Sheriff

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TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
SALLY CHANDLER HALFORD, DIRECTOR

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77
Opposition to Billed Party Preference (BPP)

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections and an officer of the American Jail Association, I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to the proposed rules on Billed Party Preference (BPP). The Department's opposition is on both security and financial grounds. I hope you will seriously consider the concerns of public officials entrusted with the care of dangerous criminals.

Security is, by the nature of our task, a top consideration for prison officials. As a corrections professional I advise you that the proposed BPP rules present a serious security risk.

Communications represent a vital link in the overall corrections security network. While incarcerated, an inmate maintains a constitutional right to communicate with legal counsel, family and others. While protecting this right, prisons have legitimate concerns about escapes, contraband, harassment, revenge, fraud and other criminal activity.

We must have the ability to route calls, block calls, prevent switching, monitor and control access. The system now in place works well. In addition, it has met the important criteria of having been tested in federal court. Upsetting a system that works well while meeting an important public safety need is not in the public interest and is not good public policy.

The financial impacts of BPP are considerable. Expensive, sophisticated equipment is required in a modern correctional facility. The present system provides quality service with no direct cost to the taxpayer. The proposed rules would necessitate a

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Capitol Annex / 523 East 12th / Des Moines, Iowa 50319

(515) 281-4811

Page Two
July 26, 1994

large expenditure of resources to replace equipment that is doing its job very well. Tax dollars that are better spent on correctional staff, maintenance and programs.

Revenues generated by the current system not only pay for the phone system, but also finance other important inmate services. Iowa law requires these funds to "directly benefit the inmate population as a whole". As a result cable television, recreation equipment, entertainment programs, holiday events and community service project are financed. In Iowa we estimate that \$500,000 in direct inmate services would be adversely impacted by the BPP rule. These services would either have to be financed by the Iowa taxpayer or eliminated.

Yet another concern is the elimination of good business relationships with our providers. We now enjoy competitive bidding for services, close attention to problems, and a quick response to emergencies.

A final concern is the potential negative impact on inmates and their families. There is no guarantee that rates will diminish under BPP. There is a real possibility that many jurisdictions will respond by reducing inmate access to phones. The proposed rules are counter productive to the interests of inmate welfare.

There are better ways to regulate the rates and routing of inmate calls. The financial interests of the advocates of BPP should not override the security concerns of legitimate public safety interests or the financial interest of taxpayers.

I have testified as an expert witness on many corrections policy issues and would welcome the opportunity to expand on these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sally Chandler Halford".

Sally Chandler Halford
Director

/tkb

DUPLICATE COPY ORIGINAL

July 22, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmates calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt

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regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Berry, Capt.
Name / Title

BALTIMORE CO DETENTION CENTER
Name of Correctional Facility

404 KENILWORTH AVE 21204
Address
Baltimore MD.

Sheriff RUSSELL OXFORD

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MARION, ILLINOIS 62959
PHONE (618) 997-6541 COMPUTER: KWQ/IL 1000000

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 27, 1994

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay

Sheriff RUSSELL OXFORD

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MARION, ILLINOIS 62959
PHONE (618) 997-6541 COMPUTER: KWQ/IL 1000000

for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We are very concerned that the FCC's solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. We believe the more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. Please, do not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Captain Gary E. Tyner, Jail Administrator
Williamson County Sheriff's Department
200 West Jefferson
Marion, Illinois 62959

PAYPHONE
S Y S T E M S

(916) 243-2117

4554-C CATERPILLAR ROAD, P.O. BOX 994685, REDDING, CA 96099

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at correctional facilities that we serve with our inmate telephone systems. Both we and our client facilities feel that we cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

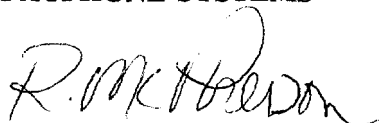
We have also found it necessary to install equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. BPP could easily eliminate the revenue stream that makes these specialized phones (and consequently a service business we have worked hard to build) possible.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. It is the policy of this firm to adhere to industry standard AT&T rates. If other firms or correctional facilities are charging unreasonable rates, a proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary in serving our customers, ultimately reducing inmate phone services our client facilities have come to rely upon. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with the provision of our telecommunications and security services.

Respectfully submitted,

PAYPHONE SYSTEMS



Ronald McPherson
General Partner

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cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
R.D.3 BOX 248
WELLSBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 16901-9417
(717)724-5911



RALPH C. YOUMANS
WARDEN

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554
Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph C. Youmans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ralph C. Youmans/Warden

3505 PINEHAVEN DRIVE
CHARLESTON HEIGHTS, SC 29405-7789



J. AL CANNON, JR., ESQ.
SHERIFF, CHARLESTON COUNTY

DOCKET # 92-77-9274
TELEPHONE (803) 554-4700
FAX (803) 554-9744

July 26, 1994

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party
Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party
Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

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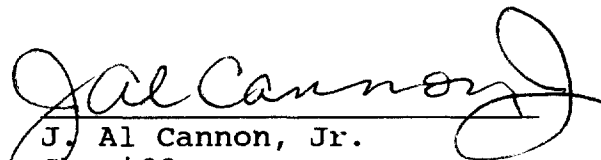
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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
July 26, 1994
Page Two

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions - decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Al Cannon, Jr.
Sheriff

Charleston County Detention Facility
3883 Leeds Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405-7482

/mr